

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 272

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Iris B. Vest Widows Ministry Center for meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those ministries who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, shining as a ray of hope in the Sevierville community, the Iris B. Vest Widows Ministry Center comprise one such laudable ministry that was founded in 2003 by John Nichols, a Church of God official; and

WHEREAS, basing his vision upon James 1:27, Mr. Nichols combined two streams of ministry into one in his plans to care for widows in need who, in turn, would help care for fatherless children in need; and

WHEREAS, today, Mr. Nichols's daughter, Judith Nichols Moore, lovingly directs the Widows Ministry on the Care Campus adjacent to the Smoky Mountain Children's Home; and

WHEREAS, an interdenominational Christian organization committed to the Scriptural mandate of honoring and caring for the widow while serving as a resource and template for other ministries through practical teaching, the Center seeks to provide widows with hope, healing, help, purpose for life, and empowerment to become all that God has planned for their lives; and

WHEREAS, based upon Jeremiah 29:11, the Center focuses on three goals: finding the widow, ministering to the widow, and empowering the widow; and

WHEREAS, each widow who resides in the beautiful 40,000 square foot building of the Center gives of herself to the community by being a mentor, friend, and "grandmother" to

children who do not have the opportunity to live in more traditional homes and by volunteering in churches and outreach missions to help the needy; and

WHEREAS, with the Center as an inspiration and model, hundreds of other centers have opened up around the world to assist thousands of widows who, in turn, have served many more thousands of persons in need; and

WHEREAS, the people of Sevier County and Tennessee receive immeasurable benefits from this Center and are justifiably proud of the widows who give of themselves that the lives of others may be better; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in commending the Iris B. Vest Widows Ministry Center, thank the good people of this ministry for their notable service to the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.